

Phillip H. Aye, Jr. July 18, 1968-October 8, 2009. After a courageous battle with pneumonia and acute respiratory distress syndrome, Phillip passed way at St Anthony's Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri on 8 October 2009. Phillip was born in Pensacola, Florida but spent most of his childhood in Allen, Kansas and Emporia, Kansas. He graduated from Emporia High in 1986.

Phillip joined the US Army and departed for basic training shortly after graduation. After basic training he attended jump school at Fort Benning, Georgia and was assigned to the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg. Phillip also graduated from the Escuela de Paracaidismo de Honduras. Phillip served as a scout/sniper in the 2/504 PIR until a double parachute malfunction on 27 October 1989 separated him from his beloved Army. Phillip recuperated and attended college, earning an Associate of Arts from Allen Community College in May 1998 and graduating from Emporia State University in December 1998 with a Bachelor of Arts in History with honors and Bachelor of Science in Education with honors. Phillip worked for USD420 in Osage City as a substitute teacher and junior high football coach for a short time. He also taught as an adjunct for Allen Community College for a few semesters. Phillip married Regena Bailey on December 3, 2000 in Osage City, Kansas.

Phillip loved music, shooting sports, muscle cars and grilling. Phillip had a zest for life and a sense of humor that was admired by many and will be greatly missed. He loved to drink coffee and shoot pool with his best friends Robert Stockton and Jeff Rensing. Dedicated to helping others, Phillip touched the lives of more than fifty teen boys through his service as a foster parent and countless others nationwide as a Civil Air Patrol (CAP) officer. A patriot to the core, the mission always came first with Phillip and he always found the time and energy for an ELT mission, a blood run, to help a cadet attend an activity, or to teach marksmanship. In CAP, Lt Col. Aye earned many honors including Outstanding Tactical Officer at the 2005 Nebraska Wing Encampment, Kansas Wing Aerospace Education Officer of the Year 2003, three Commander's Commendations, the Search and Rescue Ribbon, the Disaster Relief Ribbon, the Find Ribbon, and the Exceptional Service Award. Lt Col. Aye earned the Gill Robb Wilson Award, CAP's highest award for senior member professional development, in 2009. Lt Col. Aye served as the Homeland Security Officer for Kansas Wing and the commander of the 77th Composite Squadron. Major Aye attended more than ten encampments, National Blue Beret seven times, National Staff College, and Hawk Mountain Ranger School. Phillip was a member of the Disabled American Veterans, the National Rifle Association, and the Patriot Guard.

Phillip will be greatly missed by his wife Regena, his parents Phillip and Janice Aye and Albert and Geraline Wamser. Phillip will be remembered by his devoted brothers Sam Aye and Dave Sprinkle as well as his loving sisters Cindy Rhudy, Debbie Weaver, Vicki Padilla, Sheri Thurston, Linda Elope, Donna Chevalier, Kristi Davenport, and Jeanie Hedgepath.

Innumerable other friends and family were blessed to know him.

Friends and family are invited to attend a funeral service at 11:00 a.m. Friday, October 16, 2009, at the Burlingame Federated Church in Burlingame, Kansas. Interment with military funeral honors will follow at the Burlingame Cemetery. He will lie in state from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Thursday, at Carey Funeral Home in Burlingame, where the family will meet with relatives and friends from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Memorial contributions can be made to Kansas Wing, Civil Air Patrol. Donations will be used to fund cadet scholarships for National Special Activities so that Phillip may continue to touch the lives of young people in a positive way, and sent c/o the Funeral Home, P.O. Box 196, Burlingame, KS 66413.